Chapter 4:

The Blood of Earthgaia 2

—クレイ・ロード—

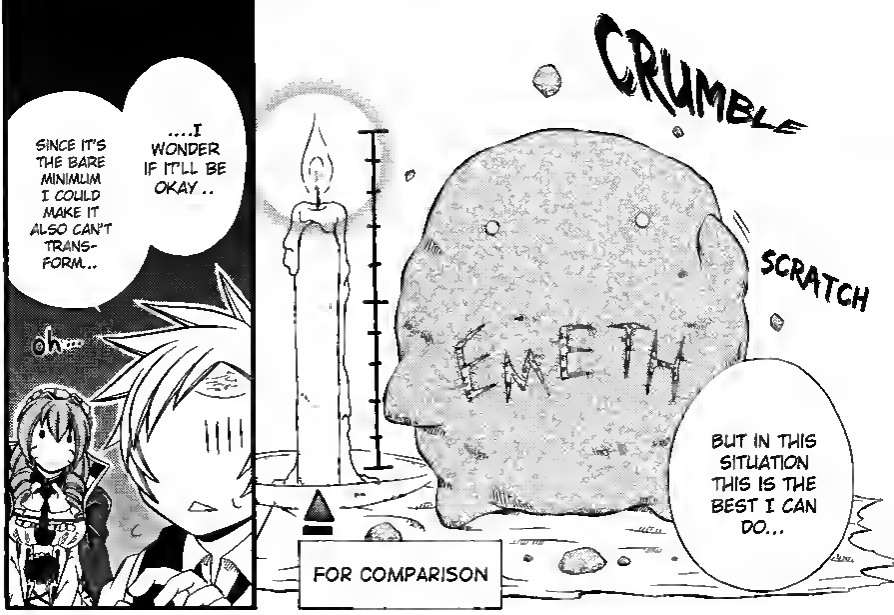
CLAY·LORD

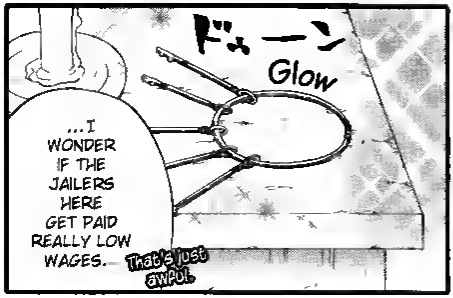
土の王

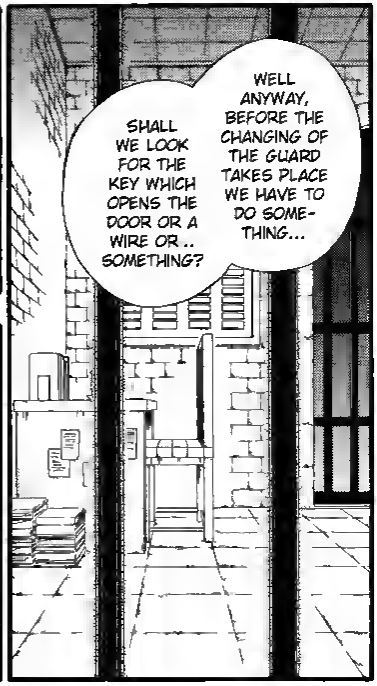
Suzumoto Jun

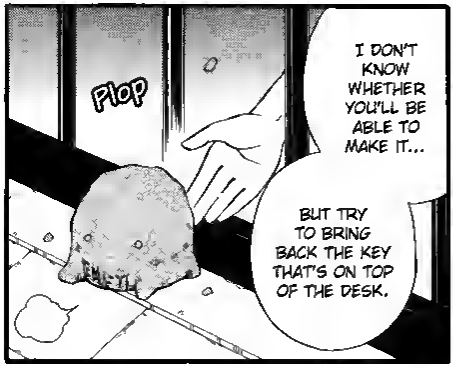
SINCE I WAS ABLE TO SCOOP UP SOME SOIL FROM OUTSIDE THE WINDOW.
I'M GLAD WE'RE UNDER GROUND.
NOW I CAN USE THE WATER FROM THIS POT AND THE PIECES OF A PLATE I BROKE IN TWO AS A REPLACEMENT FOR MOLDING TOOLS.
Rustle
HAVING TO USE TOOLS LIKE THIS IS PAINFUL BUT...
I'VE COLLECTED THE BARE MINIMUM NECESSARY!!

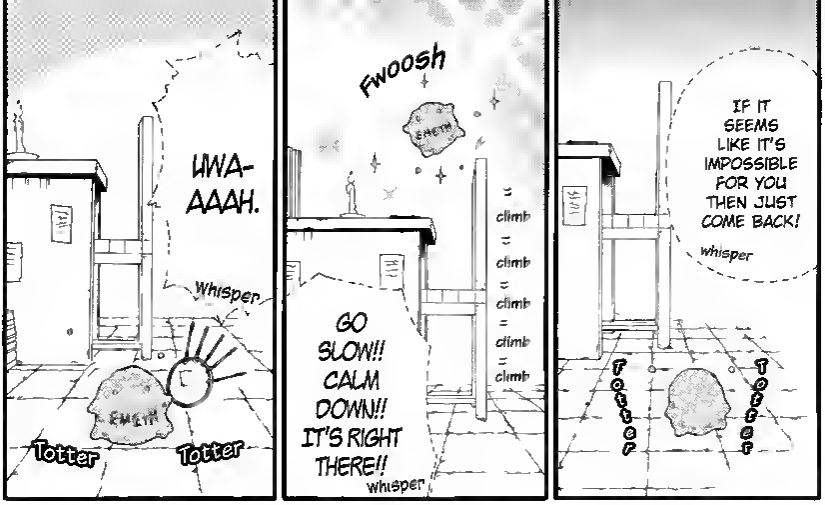
ROZE, BE SURE TO KEEP WEARING THAT PROPERLY, OKAY?
"THE EARTHGAIA BLOOD" IS TOO POWERFUL.
SO ONE MUST TAKE GREAT CARE WITH DILUTION AND DISTRIBUTION...
Drip
You could change clothes if we were at home...
SINCE THE BACK OF YOUR CLOTHING WAS ALL RIPPED UP.
GENTLEMAN
(˙ω˙)
shine
A WOMAN MUSTN'T SHOW OFF THEIR SKIN CARELESSLY!
To keep up appearances.
WHEN MOLDING THE SOIL ONE MUST REGULATE THE MAGIC BEING USED.
Drip
Drip
BECAUSE IT'S A DELICATE PROCESS IT'S BEST TO WORK IN ONE'S WORKSHOP TO CREATE GOLEMS.
Knead
Knead

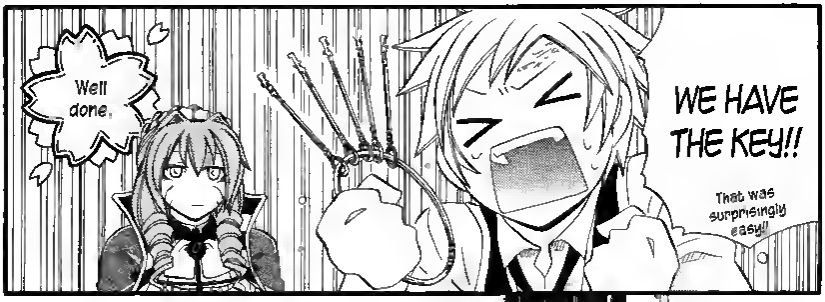

...I WONDER IF IT'LL BE OKAY..
SINCE IT'S THE BARE MINIMUM I COULD MAKE IT ALSO CAN'T TRANS-FORM..
oh...
CRUMBLE
SCRATCH
EMETH
BUT IN THIS SITUATION THIS IS THE BEST I CAN DO...
FOR COMPARISON


ドゥーン
Glow
...I WONDER IF THE JAILERS HERE GET PAID REALLY LOW WAGES.
That's just awful.


WELL ANYWAY, BEFORE THE CHANGING OF THE GUARD TAKES PLACE WE HAVE TO DO SOME-THING...
SHALL WE LOOK FOR THE KEY WHICH OPENS THE DOOR OR A WIRE OR.. SOMETHING?


Plop
I DON'T KNOW WHETHER YOU'LL BE ABLE TO MAKE IT...
BUT TRY TO BRING BACK THE KEY THAT'S ON TOP OF THE DESK.


UWA-AAAH.
Whisper
EMELY
Totter
Totter
Fwoosh
EMELY
= climb = climb = climb = climb = climb
GO SLOW!! CALM DOWN!! IT'S RIGHT THERE!!
whisper
IF IT SEEMS LIKE IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR YOU THEN JUST COME BACK!
whisper
Totter
Totter


Well done.
WE HAVE THE KEY!!
That was surprisingly easy!!

THANK YOU, YOU DID WELL.
THANKS TO YOU WE'LL BE ABLE TO GET OUT OF HERE.
Pat

CRUMBLE
YOU REALLY SAVED US.
RUSTLE
CRUMBLE
EMETH
...I'M SORRY THAT I WASN'T ABLE TO MAKE YOU PROPERLY.
.....
THANK YOU.
CRUMBLE
CRUMBLE

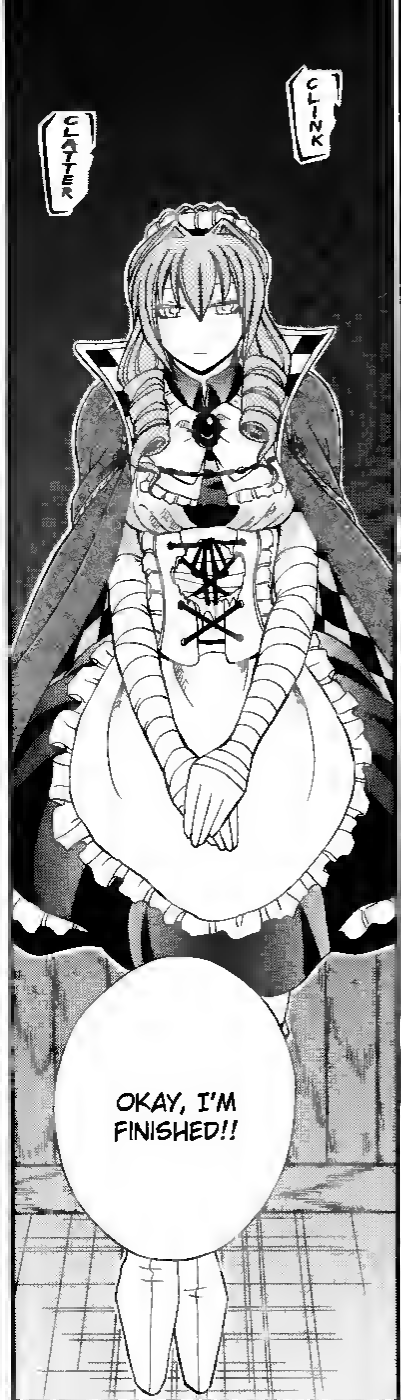
Click
I HAVE A FEELING THAT THIS PLACE IS A LITTLE SHORT ON PERSONNEL...
Rattle
Rattle
LET'S HURRY UP AND GET OUT OF HERE, ROZE.
IF THIS IS ALL THAT'S HERE THEN THERE'S NOTHING THEY CAN DO!!
LET'S GO.
Kchch

SFX: TAP
ドドド

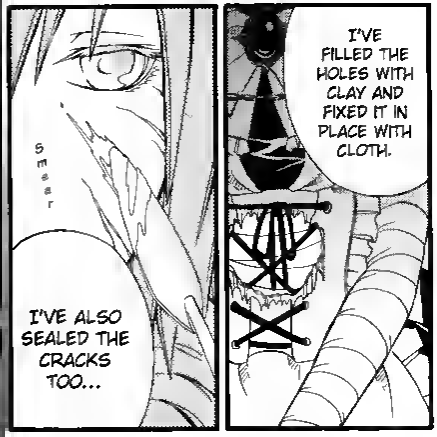
I HAVE TO TREAT HER WOUNDS QUICKLY...
THE DAMAGE ROZE SUSTAINED IS FAR GREATER THAN I THOUGHT...!
TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP
BUT, AS ONE WOULD EXPECT THIS PLACE MUST HAVE MOLDING TOOLS AND INGREDIENTS...
Glance
WHAT CAN I DO---
OVER THERE...?

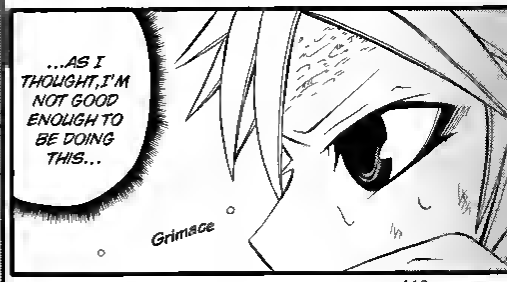
A STORE-HOUSE?
CREAK
THIS IS WHERE HE STORES HIS SURPLUS ITEMS? THERE'S A LOT OF DIFFERENT THINGS...
I SEE... HE DID SAY HE WAS A MERCHANT.

AHH-HH!! MY MOLDING TOOLS!?
HM?
ANYWAY, I NEED TO FIND SOMETHING I CAN REPAIR ROZE WITH...
HOLD ON. THE HELL IS THIS? THERE'S A TAG!! HE WAS GONNA SELL IT!? SOME-ONE ELSE'S STUFF!?
How horrible!!
THAT'S SCARY!! BLACK MARKET MERCHANTS ARE SCARY!!
Cling
NOW THEN, ROZE, LET'S GET YOU FIXED UP.
...WELL, LIKE THIS I FEEL LIKE I DON'T NEED TO HESITATE USING THIS STUFF.
For free!
GOLEM
CLAY


CLATTER
CLINK
OKAY, I'M FINISHED!!

IN THE END WE HAVE ALL THE RIGHT INGREDIENTS..


I'VE FILLED THE HOLES WITH CLAY AND FIXED IT IN PLACE WITH CLOTH.
Smear
I'VE ALSO SEALED THE CRACKS TOO...

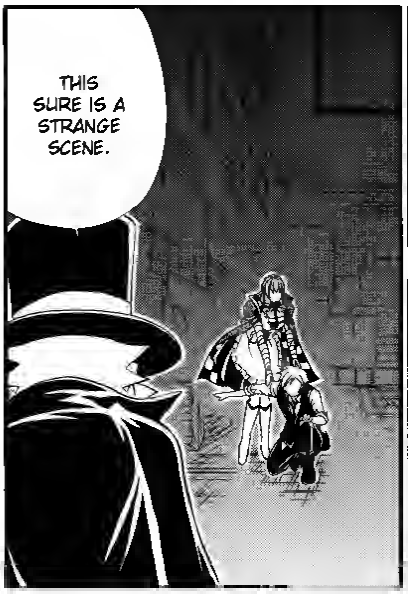

...AS I THOUGHT, I'M NOT GOOD ENOUGH TO BE DOING THIS...
Grimace

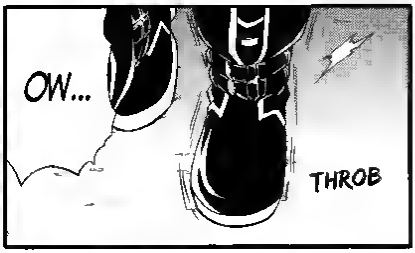
Sigh
SINCE THIS IS JUST FIRST-AID...
YOU SHOULDN'T MOVE AROUND UNTIL YOU'VE FINISHED DRYING.
I'M ALSO WORRIED ABOUT SHIROGANE AND KURO-GANE.
I HOPE THOSE TWO DON'T DO ANYTHING RECKLESS...
CLICK
CLACK
LET'S HURRY UP AND GO HOME, ROZE.
CREAK
DID YOU USE YOUR BLOOD ON THAT GOLEM,
CLAY EARTH GAIA?

YOU ACTED OUT AN INTERESTING ESCAPE.
CREAK
キ!!
キ!!
キ!!
EMETH
EMETH
THE THING COMPENSATING FOR EVERY-THING ELSE WAS THE EARTHGAIA BLOOD!!
TO THINK YOU CREATED A GOLEM WITHOUT MOLDING TOOLS OR ANY SIDE INGREDI-ENTS ..
I AM AMAZED BY YOUR CLEVER-NESS AND FORCE OF WILL. . IF THIS WERE A NORMAL CASE IT'D BE IMPOSSIBLE TO USE JUST SOIL AND WATER.
NO ONE ELSE WOULD BE ABLE TO MOLD A GOLEM WHILE STUCK IN JAIL. .
ALL SO YOU COULD REPAIR THAT MAID.
YOU MUST HAVE NOTICED THAT YOU WERE DRIVEN HERE
DID YOU THINK THE CHANGING OF THE GUARD WAS JUST LATE?
BOOM

YOU SHOULD BE MORE AWARE OF YOUR SURROU-NDINGS.
CLACK
YOU DIDN'T NOTICE?
SNOO
GOOD WORK.
THUD
OW.
YOU CAN'T. I JUST FIXED YOU.
ROZE!! DON'T MOVE, THAT'S AN ORDER!!
SWAY

IF YOU DO SOMETHING RECKLESS RIGHT NOW...
THEN YOU WILL CRUMBLE.
KYU!!


THIS SURE IS A STRANGE SCENE.


OW...
THROB

I SPRAINED MY ANKLE ... ALL BECAUSE OF THAT THING...
THROB
THROB

AREN'T THE EARTH DOLLS CREATED FOR THE SAKE OF HUMANS?
SHOULDN'T IT BE THE OTHER WAY AROUND? WHY ARE YOU PROTECTING THE GOLEM?
OH, IS IT BECAUSE SHE'S THE POSTHUMOUS WORK OF YOUR PRECIOUS BROTHERS? SO THERE'S NO REPLACEMENT?
IT'S CERTAINLY TRUE THAT... "ROSE QUARTZ"
WAS THE FINEST WORK OF ALL THOSE ANNOUNCED BY THE TWIN CROWNS WHILE THEY WERE STILL ALIVE AND HER NAME IS VERY POPULAR IN THE BUSINESS WORLD.
T/N "ROZE" MEANS "ROSE" BY THE WAY
Hmph
BUT EVEN THAT IS OVER-SHADOWED WHEN COMPARED TO THE EARTH-GAIA BLOOD.
SHOULDN'T YOU BE MORE CONCERNED FOR YOURSELF?
SHE'S CON-SIDERABLY VALUABLE

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT ALL THAT.
EARTHGAIA? TWIN CROWNS?
BECAUSE I DON'T HAVE ANY MEMORIES OF THOSE THINGS.
!?
BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT SHIRO-GANE AND KUROGANE TOLD ME.
I AM "CLAY EARTHGAIA"

I DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING.
AND I DIDN'T HAVE ANYONE.
THEN THEY GAVE ME EVERY-THING
AND SAID THEY WOULD PROTECT ME.
AND THAT'S WHY I'VE ALSO DECIDED TO PROTECT EVERYTHING THAT WAS GIVEN TO ME.

WELL WHATEVER BUT I'M STILL RELIEVED.
Tap
I DON'T REALLY KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.
BUT, DOES THIS HAVE SOME CONNECTION TO WHY YOUR EXISTENCE WASN'T KNOWN TO THE PUBLIC UNTIL NOW?
Tap
IT HAS TURNED OUT YOU TRULY ARE AN EARTHGAIA.
Rustle
YOUR BLOOD IS PROOF OF THAT.

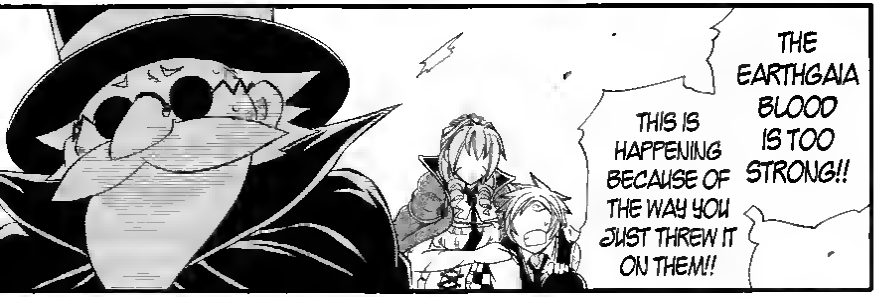
SMACK
ROZE!! I'M FINE!
It's only a prick!
SHE'S STARTED TO CRACK AGAIN...
Blik

HO HO. YOU'RE A VERY PRECIOUS COMMODITY.
I HOPE YOU CAN TOLERATE A WOUND OF THAT CALIBER.
FURTHER-MORE, IF I USE THIS BLOOD TO RAISE THE LEVEL OF MY OWN MERCH-ANDISE
THEN I CAN USE THAT AS MY SECOND SCHEME FOR GETTING RICH QUICK.
WHA...? HOLD ON?
SWISH
DON'T DO IT!!

SHATTER
EMETH
EMETH
AH...
NOW THEN, I WONDER WHAT TYPE OF GOLEMS THEY'LL BECOME.
CRACK
CRACK
WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON...?
BUB
BUB
BUB
DROP
DROP
DROP
DROP
HM?
WHAT...
THE...?

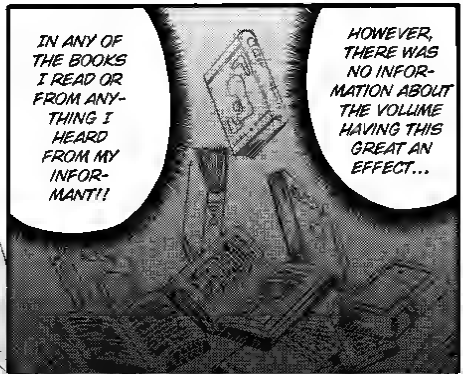
キリ
CREE
キリ
WHAT IN THE HELL IS THIS THING!?
GLARE
EMETH
EMF
ボク
DRIP
DROP
ボク
CLATTER
THEY'RE NOT LISTENING TO MY ORDERS!?
RATTLE
MY MERCHANDISE...!! DON'T MOVE!! DON'T ACT VIOLENTLY!!
ガリ
CRASH

THEY'RE OUT OF CONTROL ...!!?
I CAN CERTAINLY TELL THAT THEY'VE EVOLVED... BUT THEY'RE TOO UNSTABLE...!!
LIKE THIS THEY'RE NO BETTER THAN MONSTERS!!



IF THAT'S THE CASE THEN THE POTENCY...

OF THIS GUY'S EARTHGAIA BLOOD IS-


IN ANY OF THE BOOKS I READ OR FROM ANY-THING I HEARD FROM MY INFOR-MANT!!
HOWEVER, THERE WAS NO INFOR-MATION ABOUT THE VOLUME HAVING THIS GREAT AN EFFECT...

HO HO HO. HOW INTERESTING...
Grin
Whistle
!?
Flap
THIS SITUATION HAS EXCEEDED MY EXPECTATIONS.
Swoosh
LEAVING THIS CASTLE BEHIND IS A GREAT LOSS BUT..
Tap
THE HIGHEST IN MANY GENERATIONS!!

ハハ
オ!
ギロ
METH
IF I HAVE YOU THEN I'LL BE ABLE TO RECOVER IT.
WAIT!! WHAT ABOUT YOUR UNDERLINGS AND GOLEMS!? YOU'RE GOING TO JUST LEAVE THEM AND RUN AWAY!?
THAT GOES FOR THE PEOPLE TOO.
HO HO. I ONLY HAVE BEEN KEEPING MY CHEAP THINGS IN THIS CASTLE.

SFX: BASH
BLEGH
AS WE THOUGHT, BREAKING IN FROM THE TOP WAS PRETTY EASY, WASN'T IT?
SWOO
Ahhhh
Fall
HAH? DID I STEP ON SOME-THING?
IF WE'D HAD TO FIGHT EVERY GUARD IT WOULD HAVE WASTED TOO MUCH TIME.
SHOOSH
YOU GUYS CAME!!

CRUMBLE
SHIRO-GANE!!
KURO-GANE!!
YOUNG MASTER!! CLAY-SAMA!!
GLOW

GLARE
RUMBLE
SHOCK
AH...
YOUNG MASTER!!
CLAY-SAMA!!
SFX: BOOM
SFX: BOOM
EMETH

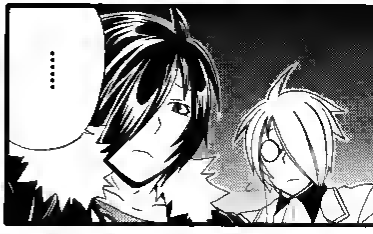
YOU'RE IN THE WAY!!!
SFX: SHIING

TOUCH OUR MASTER!!!
ENOUGH
DON'T YOU DARE
CRASH
TAP

WELL THEN, WHERE'S THE PERSON WHO HAS A DEATH WISH THAT KIDNAPPED YOU?
Pat Pat
I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE ALRIGHT!
Shiiing

YOUNG MAAAA-ASTER!!

STOP THAT, IT'S SCARY.
I'M GONNA FIND HIM AND TWIST HIS HEAD CLEAN OFF.
GRIP
Did he run away?
HE WAS THE ONE KUROGANE KICKED EARLIER..
he's not here

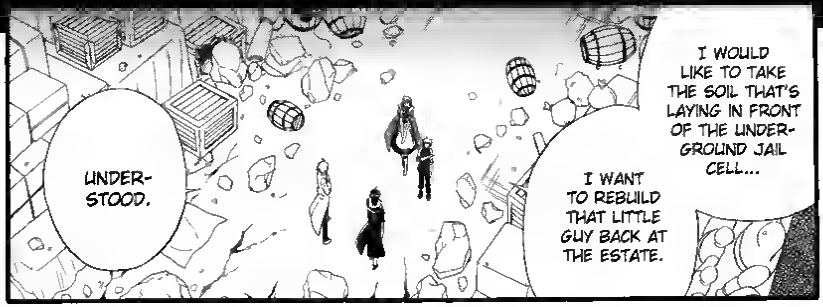

.....

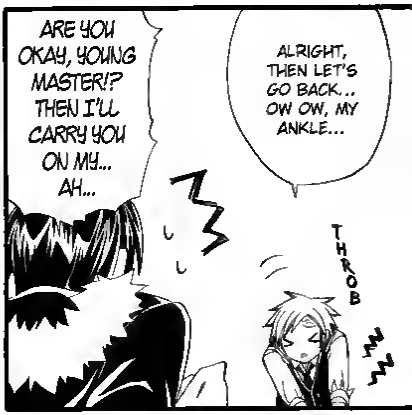
DON'T EVER DISAPPEAR FROM OUR SIGHT AGAIN WITHOUT TELLING US.
PLEASE...

CLAY-SAMA.

WE HAD TO LIVE LIKE THAT
FOR FIVE WHOLE YEARS!!
A GOLEM'S REASON FOR LIVING
VANISHES IF THEY HAVE NO MASTER.
—— AH, IT'S REALLY...
THAT WAS SUCH A HORRIBLE THING...
Guh...
Hug
THANK YOU FOR COMING TO SAVE US.
I'M SORRY FOR MAKING YOU WORRY.
BECAUSE OF THIS THAT YOU GOLEMS...

ARE SO PRECIOUS ——


I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THE SOIL THAT'S LAYING IN FRONT OF THE UNDER-GROUND JAIL CELL...
I WANT TO REBUILD THAT LITTLE GUY BACK AT THE ESTATE.
UNDER-STOOD.



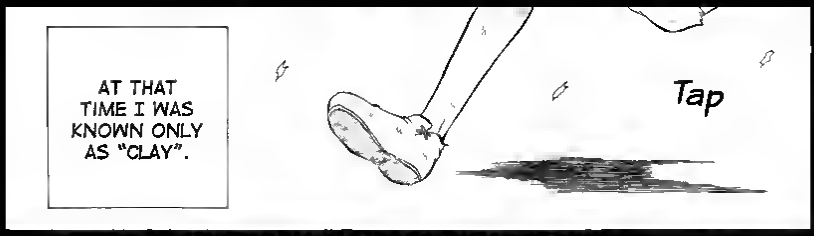
1 PIGGY-BACK
2 CARRYING IN ONE'S ARMS
3 RIDING ON THE SHOULDERS
4 CARRYING ON ONE'S SHOULDER
5 HAND-BAG STYLE
I'LL GO WITH A PIGGY-BACK RIDE.
Or any except 2.
IT'S NOT THAT YOU JUST HAVE TO TAKE THE TIME, SITUATION, CIRCUMSTANCES AND MY PRIDE INTO CONSIDERATION...
...I'M SORRY.
NOT AT ALL!!
Y... YEAH...
Nod
Nod
LET'S HURRY UP AND GET HOME AND EAT SOME WARM FOOD!

—I WONDER IF THIS IS ALSO THE FEELING...

THAT I HAD WHEN WITH MY "BROTHERS"...

I CAN'T REMEMBER...

I DON'T HAVE ANY MEMORIES FROM BEFORE "6 YEARS" AGO.



IT HAS BEEN "1 YEAR" SINCE I MET SHIROGANE, KUROGANE AND ROZE...

WHAT IS CLAY'S PAST!?

THEN I WAS JUST RECKLESSLY LIVING ALL BY MYSELF.

TRANSLATOR/CLEANER:
MORBID CHARADE

TYPESETTER/REDRAWS:
WOLF